The Covenant Nations

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 2, 2020

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MAYFLOWER 400 Page 10

▲ The Scottish National Antarctic Expedition to the South Orkney Islands and the Weddell Sea from November 1902 to July 1904 was organized and led by William Speirs Bruce FRSE who was a British naturalist, polar scientist and oceanographer. Among other achievements, the expedition established the first permanent weather station in Antarctica.

◄ COVER PICTURE:
The Lord Jesus Christ said "*I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine*" in the Gospel of *John*, chapter 10 verse 14. The psalmist speaks of "*we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever*" (*Psalm* 79:13).

Join us in the Great Cause to Wake Up God's Covenant Nations!

The Covenant Nations
Volume 5, Number 2 2020

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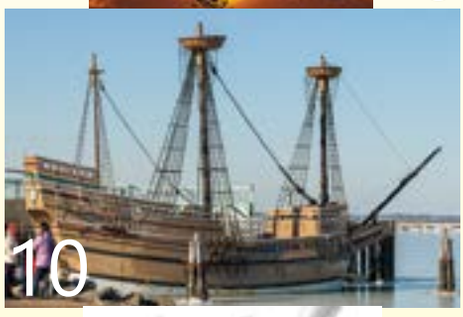

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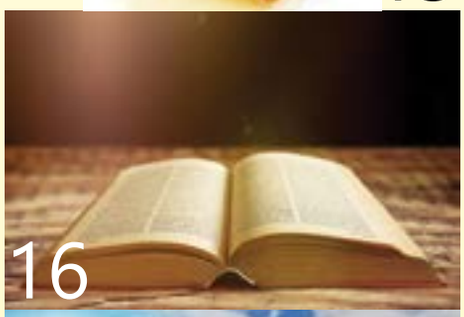

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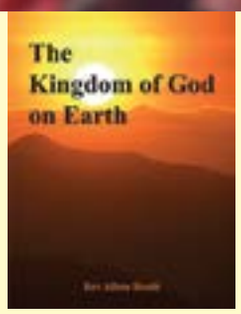

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Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in the articles are generally well-researched and considered. However, they do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

The Covenant Nations working together for the benefit of their brethren and the whole world

"And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed"

***Genesis* 28:14**

EDITORIAL

THEN CAME A GREAT SILENCE –

A global pestilence has stopped the world in its materialistic tracks

Until the Covid-19 pandemic emerged on the world scene at the beginning of 2020, Almighty God to the modern mind had no relevance. In the United Kingdom no senior Church prelate spoke with *spiritual authority* as to why this event had come about. Positive guidance came there none for God's people and the "company of nations" *who only* are called by the name of God. The nation held its breath as Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, experienced near fatal infection and much prayer was offered on his behalf – afterwards he said he felt "buoyant" throughout.

The 75th anniversary of VE-Day was not marked as planned; the number **75** is significant of fruition, being the difference between the prophetic numbers **1260** and **1335**, given by Daniel. These numbers are associated with *economic tribulation* and *cleansing*. **75** is also the epact between **2520** lunar and solar years, thus both Sun and Moon are witness to the importance of the hour for the world as a whole.

With death striking at the leading covenant nations and people's livelihoods under threat, many people who have never given God a serious thought in their lives (we hear) have been praying for the first time in their lives. This is significant as the LORD declared "***If I send pestilence among my people****: If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways: then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal* ***their land****.*" (II *Chronicles* 7:13-14).

As never before the skies have been silent with airlines on lockdown, apart from bringing millions of citizens back to their own countries, reminding us of the words of the prophet Isaiah concerning the final judgment of the nations and the overthrow of world power prior to the cleansing of His Kingdom in our midst and the Second Advent: "*Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast*, *For behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain"* (*Isaiah* 26:20-21). While the slain referred to undoubtedly are the millions killed in two world wars, the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic and the hundreds of smaller conflicts over the past century, the materialistic world of *prophetic* economic Babylon is the final judgment on the world scene, as *Revelation* chapter 18 reveals.

The prophetic significance of the Covid-19 pandemic, which began in China, will only be fully evaluated when life has returned to a semblance of normality; however, we do know that the world will change as far as globalization is concerned. This involves the international financial system based on the US dollar remaining as the world's reserve currency, *despite the $25* ***trillion*** *national debt!*

The US dollar has long been the currency of choice for banking and trade and for valuing all other currencies. The United States still holds global trust and confidence of its ability to pay its obligations. For this reason, the US dollar remains the strongest world currency. It may continue to be the top global currency in the years to come as the European Central Bank comes into a storm destroying the unity of the eurozone and the EU itself.

The huge dependency of the West on trade supply lines with China, not least over the 5G issue, will not continue as before. It is a huge security issue for the Free World which will have to be addressed in terms of the **Five Eyes intelligence alliance** between the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. These covenant nations are bound by the multilateral UKUSA Agreement, a treaty for joint cooperation in signals intelligence. As the world emerges from the 'Great Silence,' the great Western Nations will come to think deeply in respect of separating themselves from the vast wealth of the global elite who heretofore have been moving towards *pagan* world government.

We may not have long to wait to see the full effect of the final separation of the covenant nations from the economic system based on gold. The date 17-31 October 2021 marks **390** years (Ten Tribes trouble) from when Spanish gold and silver, worth billions of pounds, went to the bottom of the Caribbean during a storm in late October 1631 aboard the Spanish galleon *Our Lady of Juncal*.

A SPIRITUAL APPROACH TO COVID-19

It is with some trepidation that I take pen in hand to write this article; partly because people the world over have been overloaded with information on COVID-19, and partly because the pandemic is an ongoing event and things could change at any time. So in the meantime, I wish to focus more on the biblical and spiritual aspects of this global crisis.

As of this writing, it is believed that the outbreak began in December, 2019, in the wet markets in the city of Wuhan, China, where the first people reported to be infected with the virus were stall-holders in the market. Among every kind of animal imaginable sold there for food were horseshoe bats and pangolins, or scaly anteaters. The coronavirus found in humans is 96% identical to the virus in bats, and 88-92% that of pangolins. Tests have shown that bats are reservoirs for hundreds of coronaviruses and the viruses are known to jump from animals to humans – for example, the 2003 SARS outbreak was also traced to bats. This is very significant, because bats have always been associated with the kingdom of darkness and most people loathe bats as they do snakes. Satan is often depicted with bat wings, as for instance in William Blake's painting, "Satan Smiting Job with Sore Boils," and in the 1940 Disney film *Fantasia* ("A Night on Bald Mountain"). And we have the saying, "going like a bat out of hell."

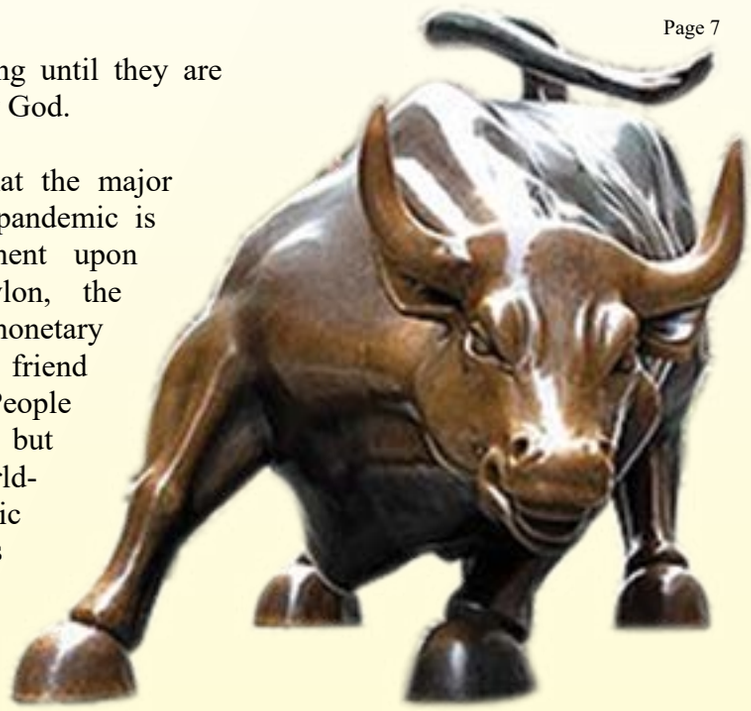
So there seems to be a strong spiritual link between the Devil and COVID-19. However, there is an even more telling connection. When I looked up the word "virus" in the dictionary, to my astonishment, the first definition of virus was "venom, as of a snake." Another dictionary similarly said, "venom, snake poison." This was the only definition of "virus" for centuries. Its first recorded use as an agent that causes an infectious disease was in 1728, in reference to venereal disease. The modern scientific use only dates from the 1880s. The take-away from these correlations suggests that, whatever the origin of the coronavirus is in scientific terms, spiritually, it is an agent of Satan, a venom that he has spread throughout the planet, in his ongoing warfare against God and humanity. I believe that what we are seeing in this virus – which has spread to the entire globe, unlike anything seen before – is the fulfillment of *Revelation* 12:9-12: "*And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world; he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him… Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the Devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time*."

The dragon is related to, if not identical with, the "beasts" of *Revelation* 13, and a United States governor was heard to declare, "We did not kill the beast and the beast can rise up again," speaking of a possible second wave. Another speaker referred to an "invisible enemy," and this is quite correct, as Paul writes in *Ephesians* 6:12: "*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places*." It is spiritual warfare of the highest order but the trouble is no government leaders

are calling on their citizens to pray to the Lord for His intervention, but instead are telling everyone to trust the scientists and health care professionals. While these experts may be doing a very valuable work, the fact remains that the people are clothed only with man-made armour, not "*the full armour of God*" – the only thing that will turn aside the poisoned darts of the Enemy. In short, in an increasingly secular society, we are suffering as much from the twenty-first century disease of ignoring and abandoning the Lord God of Israel as we are from COVID-19.

However, having seen that this novel coronavirus is a tool of Satan, it does not mean that he is in control, for God is allowing and using the outbreak for His own purposes, just as He allowed Satan to smite Job. It is very significant that the virus has been dubbed COVID-19, for in biblical numerics, 19 is the number of judgment. *Genesis* 19 tells the story of God's judgment on Sodom and Gomorah, and we are living in a modern-day Sodom, with the world-wide proliferation of Gay Pride parades and propaganda. According to *Ezekiel* 16:49, the chief sin of Sodom was "pride," so it is no coincidence that that is the term in popular use today. Also in the biblical food laws given in *Leviticus*, chapter 11, the 19th verse lists bats as the last of the flying creatures that are an abomination.

Another symbol of moral decay in the Old Testament is the plague of leprosy. In *Leviticus* 13:45 the law requires that a leper "*put a covering upon his upper lip, and shall cry, Unclean, unclean.*" This has had an almost unprecedented fulfillment by the millions of people world-wide wearing masks over their nose and mouth to protect themselves and others. The cry "Unclean" now refers to the immoral practices too numerous to mention prevalent in our society today, which can only go on for so long until they are judged by a Holy God.



But it seems that the major purpose of the pandemic is to bring judgment upon economic Babylon, the international monetary system. As a friend wrote to me, "People die every day, but this is a world-wide economic disaster." It has spelled financial ruin for a lot of individuals, businesses and even countries – the United States, the wealthiest nation on earth, is projecting a deficit of nearly four trillion dollars – an unimaginable sum. (To put this into perspective, to count to one trillion, counting one number per second, would take a person 32,000 years!) It is a dire situation, from which many of the affected may never recover. But this should come as no surprise, since God's judgment on Babylon is clearly prophesied in *Revelation*, chapters 17, 18 & 19, and in *Jeremiah* 50 & 51 in the Old Testament. God will bring down the walls of Babylon – epitomized by Wall Street and its charging bronze bull, symbolizing the worship of the Golden Calf – as He has purposed to do since the beginning of time.

The judgment is also spoken of in a different form in *Isaiah* 28. The relevant passage begins with the promise to Israel-Britain, starting in verse 17: "*Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies…And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand*." This was literally fulfilled on 31 January of this year, when Britain was finally able to exit the European Union or spiritual Egypt. It was a "Brexodus" indeed! But following on the heels of Brexit, the same passage goes on to say, "*when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it. From the time that it goeth forth it shall take you: for morning by morning it shall pass over, by day and by night: and it shall be a vexation only to understand the report.*" This latter is a perfect description of the anxiety created just by listening to the 24/7 news coverage of the virus – there is virtually nothing else mentioned. And the next verse, 20, "*For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it: and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it,*" speaks to me of the constantly referred to world-wide shortage of Personal Protective Equipment. The widespread fear and anxiety, fuelled by the non-stop media coverage, are the main tools Satan uses to spiritually enslave people and keep them separated from God.

So what should the Christian's response be? Well, it, too, is set forth clearly in *Isaiah* 26:20, "*Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation* [or righteous anger] *be overpast*."

Who could have imagined that this scripture would be fulfilled, not only metaphorically, but literally, and not just by some Christians, but by the entire global community? The unprecedented rules of staying at home and social distancing – enforced by police in some cases – have given the populace no choice but to comply with the Word of God, whether they are aware of it or not.

This keeping inside the home is also an echo of Israel during the plagues in Egypt, where the tenth plague was the death of the first born. (Coronavirus has proved to be most lethal for the elderly). Israel was instructed to kill a lamb for a household, apply its blood to their doorposts and lintels, and then go into their houses, shut the door, and stay there, until the plague of judgment had passed. It was a foreshadowing of the blood of Jesus, the true Passover Lamb, which would save His people who were "under the blood." It was even unconsciously followed at the time of His crucifixion – the fulfillment of Passover – when His disciples withdrew into their homes and shut their doors for fear of the Jews (*John* 20:19 &26). And we must not forget Noah who, with his family, entered into the ark, and God shut them in, until the judgment of the Flood had run its course. So are we seeing a biblical pattern which is being repeated now, but on a global scale – a witness that the climactic "Day of the Lord," spoken of by Jesus in *Matthew* 24, may be near at hand?

In contrast, however, at the exodus Israel was delivered from the plagues, as a separation was made between them and the rest of Egypt. But today, Israel has not been spared, since (as of mid-May), the two countries with the most deaths from COVID-19 are the USA (Manasseh) and the UK (Ephraim and Judah). Is this a fulfillment of I *Peter* 4:17, "*For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?*"

> "Judgment also will I lay to the line"
> *Isaiah* 28:17

If so, it is a strong admonition for the people of God to repent and return unto Him, the only One who can save them from the wrath to come. For this is always the true intention of God: not to punish, but to humble the people and restore them to a relationship with Himself, as is expressed in the well-known scripture from II *Chronicles* 7:14: "*If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will* ***heal their land***."

Another way of looking at COVID-19 is that, along with the effects of climate change – more frequent and intense storms, hurricanes, fires and drought – it is part of the birth pangs of the New Age. In Isaiah's warning to Babylon, he speaks specifically, "*Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt: And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them: they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames*" (*Isaiah* 13:7-8). Just as labour pains increase in intensity and frequency as the birth approaches, so we must expect these birth pangs to come on the earth in order to usher in the new Millennium. The earth must be cleansed and prepared for the return of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the dead, and our new birth into glorified bodies like His. As Jesus Himself said in *John* 16:21, "*A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world*." We cannot appreciate it now, but the world to come will more than compensate for the grievous global trials in bringing it about. (See also *Romans* 8:18-23).

It is worth noting that the word "coronavirus" is from the Latin corona, a crown; so-named for the sharp points sticking out of it like a spiky crown. And, indeed, it is a crown – a crown of thorns! But we must always remember that Jesus wore the crown of thorns when He made the supreme sacrifice on the cross, so the coronavirus is already defeated and it can never go beyond the bounds God has set for it. Satan may be desperate, as he knows he has only a short time, but God is Sovereign – He is firmly in control.

Finally, at this time of stress and uncertainty, I have found that, for me, one of the best sources of comfort and encouragement is *Psalm* 91 (the reverse of 19): "*He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty*." We are all dwelling in our secret places (homes), but to dwell in the secret place of the most High is to have much more than the fragile security of "social distancing." It is to be anchored to the Rock that cannot fail, no matter how things transpire on the earth. It is the safest place anyone can be.

PATRICIA BAGWELL BA

SILENCE IN THE EARTH

"*Be still, and know that I am God:*
I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth" (*Psalm* 46:10)

There is a godly silence to be obeyed as commanded in the Scripture quote above. Silence and quiet are powerful tools to be used when spending time in prayer, study and contemplation of God's Word. How else can the 'still small voice be heard' among the noise and clamour of daily life? In the article 'Big Ben Minute – Extra' on page 15 there is some new information about that worldwide act of silence for prayer. There is however an 'ungodly silence' which is afflicting the United Kingdom in particular though aspects of it are seen throughout our covenant nations.

It began as the nation went into 'lockdown' in an attempt to resist the pandemic of the coronavirus. Silence in the streets; the railways and the skies. Silence in the shops; restaurants and schools. No sporting fixtures; no entertainments and no excursions. No visits to family; no visits to the newborn or to the dying. No parades; no public gatherings and so no VE–Day celebrations which were eagerly anticipated.

No reply to a letter requesting a National Day of Prayer – undoubtedly not the only one sent. There was a Day of Prayer on 22 March 2020 but it was not an official one called by the Prime Minister, Her Majesty The Queen and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Prime Minister himself was silenced when he fell ill with the virus. The Queen spoke to the nation but the guns were silenced on her birthday, 21 April (the time of writing). Silenced for the first time in her reign of 68 years. The Archbishop of Canterbury spoke from his kitchen on Easter Sunday because by then there was silence in all the churches and the doors locked on his authority.

Silence from Church and State

There are no church bells and the greatest bell of all, Big Ben, is silent while the Elizabeth Tower is being repaired and restored. Parliament is silenced in the fullest sense, being able to meet only in a limited way over the internet – the first time it has not met in 700 years.

In contrast, there is one officially sanctioned time of community togetherness – clapping and cheering and praising. Weekly at 8pm on a Thursday evening everyone is expected to appear at their door or window to praise the NHS and the health workers. Their hard work and professionalism during this pandemic are a wonderful example of dedication and commitment to their patients but they are not the organization. It would be a brave person who refused to worship at the shrine of the National Health Service. In fact it is almost compulsory. The NHS does not represent 'our values' as is repeatedly said. The values of the nation are found in the Word of God which is the foundation on which all Common Law is based. No worldly organization has replaced that.

When will the ungodly silence end? When will the people call out to Almighty God?
"*I will yet for this be enquired of by the* ***house of Israel****, to do it for them*" (*Ezekiel* 36:37).

PHILIPPA CLARK

TIME - PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Time is an interesting concept used frequently and thoughtlessly. One definition is that 'Time is the ongoing sequence of events taking place'; a description with which we can all agree.

But we use Time as if it is a possession of ours:

'I will make time'; 'When I have time …'; 'Don't waste my time'; 'I'm short of time'

The underlying assumption is that we are in control of time.

And yet in reality, we have no time of our own and there is nothing we can do to control it.

What does God say? "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord" (*Revelation* 1:8). The 'ongoing sequence of events' is in His hands.

Praise His Holy Name!

BIBLE ROOTS OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC

The Voyage of the *Mayflower* From 16 September, 2020, there should be the beginning of events which will commemorate 400 years of shared history between the two great nations of the United Kingdom and the United States of America. 'Mayflower 400. 1620 – 2020' is the title under which these events are being organized.

The *Mayflower* was the ship that transported English separatists, know today as the Pilgrims, from Plymouth in England to the New World. The ship was originally bound for the mouth of the Hudson River but the decision was made instead to land farther north, in what is now Massachusetts, USA. The Mayflower Compact signed by those early settlers has the opening words "In the name of God, Amen' thus establishing their faith in God as a basis for their new life.

It is good news that many people want to celebrate this important event though time will tell how the events will be done in these new circumstances. However some disturbing news from America shows how vigilant all Christians must be to guard our heritage from the unceasing attacks of the atheistic cultural elite.

This extract from 'A woke cultural elite is rewriting US history,' an article in *The Times*, London, Thursday 7 May, 2020, by Gerard Baker describes what is happening now*:

"In the absence of traditional public examinations at this time of year, as a result of you know what, here's a little history quiz for you. What year marked the creation of the United States?

Most of you will probably answer 1776, the year of the Declaration of Independence. Credit might also be given if you said 1788, the date of the ratification of the constitution. A smarty-pants inclined to take a more structuralist view of history could suggest 1756 and the outbreak of the Seven Years' War, which depleted His Majesty's Treasury and required tax increases that impelled the American colonists to rebellion.

But you'd all be wrong. The correct date, apparently, is 1619.

This was the year the first slaves arrived in the British colonies of North America and if the people who control most of the cultural conversation in America these days get their way, we should all see this as the true moment of the founding of the nation. The point, of course, is that it defines America as a nation built not on the lofty ideals of freedom

Replica of the Mayflower

and self-government laid out in the document written by the founding fathers, but as one built on the degradation, dehumanization and persecution of black people."

The full article is too long to be reproduced here but one other significant quote is this:

"This kind of thinking represents so much of the West's self-image these days. The reorienting of our national stories to emphasise every evil and depreciate every good – in education, the media and entertainment industries, as well as, through creeping cultural metastasis, in much of the business world – has advanced so far that we almost don't notice it any more."

Now follows this important study by Jory Brooks.

The Christian Republic, A Divine Institution

A common misconception today is to ascribe to early pagan Greece or Rome the origin of our American system of representative government. It will be a surprise to many who are not knowledgeable about early Bible history to learn that its actual roots are in the ancient Hebrew republic in the Old Testament.

Biblical scholar, Dr. Paul Ramsey, informs us, *"The [Hebrew] nation originated in the federation of tribes bound together by their common covenant with Yahweh. The covenant ...was rather like* ***a constitution*** *voluntarily promulgated by a monarch. Yet it was ratified by the people (Exodus 24:3-8; Deuteronomy 27; Joshua 24:1-28), and it is possible that the accounts of its ratification reflect an annual ceremony in which the people solemnly renewed their commitment to the covenant. It is fair to say, therefore, that* ***the biblical conception of law and government rests primarily on the Divine Will but also on popular consent****."* (Basic Christian Ethics, p.369).

The concept of representative government through popular consent has its foundations in the Old Testament. Hebrew scholar, Ferrar Fenton, in his *Holy Bible In Modern English*, states, *"the kings were clearly elective."* (*Genesis* 36 note). Fenton refers to the Mosaic laws as "**Constitutional Laws**" (*Numbers* 35, etc.), for although they were given by God, they were ratified by the people of Israel, as seen in *Exodus* 24:7. Fenton comments, *"I cannot find that the Hebrews ever had that which is sooner or later a curse to the commonwealth, an elected aristocracy. The views implanted in them by Moses were those of Constitutional Government. Everyone was a farmer and a soldier. Anyone could by patient labour, as Jessai, or by sudden bravery, as David, rise to greatness. There was never... a sharp and defined line between the nobles and the commons."* (I *Samuel* 17, note).

The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia adds, "The institutions of ancient Israel, as portrayed in the Bible, imply an underlying conception of personal and national liberty… The idea of personal liberty appears especially in the legal codes of the Pentateuch. The Ten Commandments, pivotal point of the entire legislation, are based on the premise that the regimen of good society depends just as much upon respect for the rights of man as for the service of God. Along with injunctions against idolatry and blasphemy, the Decalogue therefore includes prohibitions against destroying a man's life (murder), home (adultery), reputation (false witness) or property (theft and covetousness)." (VII:34). It was these biblical laws, which underlie the Constitution of the United States, granting human liberty.

What about the Chief Executive in ancient Israel? The same article says, "The standard example of national liberty in the Bible is the rejection, in the earlier period, of human kingship. The biblical attitude is summed up in two noteworthy episodes. The first is that of the making of the Covenant between God and Israel on Sinai. This is pictured on essentially democratic lines. The Covenant, which constitutes the charter of Israel's nationhood, is not imposed by superior power, through the agency of any one authority, but is offered to and accepted **by the whole people collectively:** *'And he* [Moses] *took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said,* ***all that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient****'* (*Exodus* 24:7). The second episode is that of Gideon's refusal to become king of Israel, or to allow his family to be turned into a dynastic household. God, he avers, is the only true king (*Judges* 8:22-23)." (ibid., VII:35). This has a direct parallel with early America, where some asked General George Washington to take the title of "king." He refused, saying that America already had a king, the Lord Jesus Christ!

The Hebrew origin of American Liberty is documented in the same encyclopedia. "American ideas of

liberty are in a measure indebted to earlier [Hebrew] thinking. In 1636 the Plymouth Colony expressly drew up its constitution on the basis of the system introduced by Nehemiah after the Return from the Babylonian Exile (*Nehemiah* 9 and 10). In 1647, the Massachusetts Colony declared its adherence to Mosaic principles in framing its code of laws. The same was done in Connecticut in 1650, and in New Haven in 1655. In the words of the historian Lecky *(Rationalism in Europe, vol. 2, p. 168),* ***'The Hebraic mortar cemented the foundations of American Democracy.'"*** (ibid., VII:37).

The book, *Law In Colonial Massachusetts*, tells us that in colonial times, our forefathers often referred to America as "Zion," and as "a city set upon a hill," using biblical imagery for the earthly Kingdom of God. (pp. 7, 52, etc.). The colonists referred to each other as Israelites (p.62), and judges frequently based decisions upon Bible law. For example, we are told that in cases of theft, justice John Clark *"invariably ordered that the defendant pay to the victim three times the value of the goods stolen,"* based upon the principle of restitution in *Exodus* 22. (ibid. p.117-118). Even the famous Liberty Bell contains an inscription taken from Bible law in *Leviticus* 25:10: ***"Proclaim liberty throughout all the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof."*** Truly American institutions were based upon biblical principles.

In early America, near the close of the Revolutionary War, the **Articles of Confederation** for the new republic was adopted, again based upon biblical principles. On the day of adoption, **October 25, 1780,** the Continental Congress gathered, with John Hancock presiding over the House of Representatives and Senate, to hear a leading minister expound upon the meaning of the event from the Word of God. The man chosen for the honour was **Dr. Samuel Cooper, D.D.,** to whom the presidency of Harvard University had been offered and declined. Dr. Cooper's message* on the biblical parallels between Israel and America is as important and timely as when first given. His text was *Jeremiah* 30:20-22, *"Their children also shall be as aforetime, and their congregation shall be established before me, and I will punish all that oppress them. And their nobles shall be of themselves, and their governor shall proceed from the midst of them; and I will cause him to draw near, and he shall approach unto me: for who is this that engaged his heart to approach unto me? saith the LORD. And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God."*

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*This article from *The Times* and the full message of Dr Cooper are available from the Editorial Team on request.

Plymouth Rock Monument - site of disembarkation

‘BE YE SEPARATE’

In this age of unbelief thoughts and attitudes to so much in our culture and way of life have changed. The boundaries of right and wrong, true and false, have become extremely blurred and the earnest Bible student will find much in that Holy Book to be anachronistic to this modern ideology. Yet, in its prophetic context the Scriptures foresaw this attitude and development in human outlook, summed up, perhaps, in the words: “*Every way of man is right in his own eyes*….” (*Proverbs* 21:2).

But these boundary lines separating right from wrong, or good from evil, are firmly fixed in the Word of God and cannot be crossed without serious consequences. They form the basis of a principle, enshrined in Scripture, which was established in the Garden of Eden. In the centre of this area, where the Adamic race was formed, there was the ‘tree of life’ whose fruit, they were told, was not to be eaten. It was to be regarded as separate from all the other edible fruits which could be safely eaten for food. Being tempted, as Adam and Eve were, to ignore this boundary, has resulted in all the problems mankind has since had to face, even death itself. The choice ever since has been to enjoy good and life or suffer evil and death.

The first inhabitants of this earth chose the latter, as we read in the book of *Job*, when the rebellious people rejected God, saying: “… *depart from us for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways*” (21:14). The judgment of God upon them was inevitable, for good and evil cannot co-exist. Noah and his family were the only people who kept faith with God and were, therefore, separated from the rest of that community of people and spared within the ark while the flood destroyed the evil of rebellion.

The post flood inhabitants of the earth proved, in time, to be little better than their predecessors so, again, separation was used to frustrate their evil deeds, through the confusion of tongues. This must surely have been a traumatic event for it would cause the destruction of their means of communication, their common language, and thus make information-sharing virtually impossible. In just a brief period of time knowledge, skills and expertise would be lost and the generations that followed would have to relearn and redevelop new skills from the simple and basic ones to which they had been set back. Evidence that such an interruption to human cultural development was unearthed, quite literally, at the site of biblical Jericho. Archaeological excavation there uncovered layers of earlier cultures, each less developed than the later one, until the layer of a stone-age culture was exposed. Then later excavators were surprised to find another culture layer beneath that, which revealed evidence of a highly civilised society with advanced skills and expertise (from a book by Swedish historian and archaeologist Carl Nylander).

So, the people of the post flood age progressed in that way, as the Scripture records, but, again indulged in the worship of idols and false gods. However, knowledge of the true faith did remain and God set about to nourish its survival by separating faithful Abram from his contemporaries and placing him in another land where he could raise his family. The descendants of this man were chosen to have a special relationship with God, with the purpose of being witnesses to His power, wisdom and concern for the wellbeing of all mankind. The principle of separation for the preservation of their unique way of life under the rule and laws of God was to be central to the successful fulfilment of their purpose. But God was well aware of the inherent weaknesses and susceptibilities of His people Israel, as recorded in the pages of the Bible. When they had grown in numbers sufficient for them to be considered as a national entity Israel was placed in a land of their own, one previously occupied by another people who were completely degenerate and had to be expelled from it. This is recorded in *Leviticus* chapter 20 where we find God’s announcement to the Israelites in these words: “*Ye shall inherit their land and I will give it unto you to possess it; a land that floweth with milk and honey. I am the Lord your God, which have separated you from other people*” (verse 24).

The same situation is recorded in *Exodus* 23 and here, in the final two verses, there is a further instruction to Israel, as though to emphasise the need and the reason for separation: “*Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they*

make thee sin against Me; for if thou serve their gods it will surely be a snare unto thee." In *Deuteronomy* 7, verse 4, we have virtually the same instruction and warning: *"For they will turn away thy sons from following Me, that they may serve other gods; so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you and destroy thee suddenly*." Further confirmation of this principle is found in *Exodus* 33, in Moses' prayer, recorded in verses 12 to 16, seeking God's grace and presence as an aid to his leadership: "*For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? Is it not in that thou goest with us? So shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth*."

If it is thought that this doctrine was confined to the Old Testament age, and was no longer applicable in the New Testament era, that thought should be discarded. The words of the apostle Paul, in his second letter to the Corinthians, makes very clear that the principle still applies, as we read in verse 6: "*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers, for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness*?" (verse14). "*Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you*" (verse 17).

The principle of separation is clearly given in the book of *Psalms*, in *Psalm* 147, where the words of the final two verses leave no room for doubt: "*He showeth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel. He hath not dealt so with any nation, and as for his judgments they have not known them*."

Appropriately, following on from these words of King David, the words of his illustrious son, Solomon, included in his wonderful, visionary prayer of dedication of the new Temple, refer to the same principle and the unique position Israel occupied in the purposes of God. These are the king's words of acknowledgement in his prayer: "*For thou didst separate them from among all the people of the earth, to be thine inheritance, as thou spakest by the hand of Moses thy servant when thou broughtest our fathers out of Egypt, O Lord God*."

> "A land that floweth with milk and honey"
> *Leviticus* 20:24

So Solomon clearly acknowledges the separate existence of Israel and declares her to be God's 'inheritance.' An inheritance is either a physical entity or a financial one, which is passed on within a family dynasty, and it is excluded to anyone outside that family unit. Israel was, and still is, such a family unit, unique in its relationship with God, as the words of the Psalmist confirmed. She had a purpose and mission in the plans and purposes of God – to be His instrument in His plans for the reconciling of fallen mankind and to bring them back to a harmonious relationship with Him. As an inheritance that nation and people of Israel must continue to fulfil that purpose, it is her unique raison d'etre. As God's inheritance Israel is intended to be a blessing to all the nations of this earth. We have partly fulfilled this in the spreading of the Christian Gospel worldwide, by means of our Bible societies and missionary outreach in the past centuries but our full potential has not yet been reached, sadly, due to the great apostasy which has developed in the nation in more recent times. Yet, the plans and purposes of God cannot fail, and these include the much needed cleansing of the kingdom to become fit to fulfil her Divine commission. That it is in such a disreputable state at the present time is vividly described in the words of the prophet Ezekiel, in chapter 36. From verse 16 onwards the failings of the kingdom are clearly exposed: "*Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean;* ***from all your filthiness, and from all your idols will I cleanse you***" (verse 25); the need for revival is also plainly stated: "*Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations*" (verse 31); and the acknowledgement of the kingdom that it is powerless to help itself is openly admitted: "*Thus saith the Lord God; I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel* ***to do it for them***;" (verse 37). That the faithfulness and magnanimity of God towards Israel is in no way deserved is starkly declared in emphatic terms, and in the two-fold style which the Lord uses in His word to stress a significant point. Thus we read: "*Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God: I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whether ye went*." (verse 22); then "*Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord God, be it known unto you; be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel*" (verse 32). So there is no place in the kingdom for conceit, only for contrition.

Perhaps in this year, 2020, we have seen a preparatory move heralding the much needed cleansing process? Having been in virtual captivity for the past 47 years we have finally reinstated our separation from the European Union, regaining our sovereign independence which should never have been relinquished. It was not a captivity achieved by force of arms but one

BIG BEN MINUTE - EXTRA

As a follow-up to the article 'Big Ben Minute' in the last issue of The Covenant Nations, *Volume 5 Number 1, readers will find this extra information very interesting.*

A question sent in to the 'Answers to Correspondents' page in the *Daily Mail*, 16 April 2020, asked:
What was the origin of the Silent Minute at 9pm every day during World War II?

It was answered by a reader, Matthew L. Horton from Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire:

"From 1940, BBC radio broadcast the chimes of Big Ben at 9pm, followed by a minute's silence. Listeners were asked to 'unite in meditation, prayer or focus (each according to their own belief) and consciously will for peace to prevail.'

Major Wellesley Tudor Pole came up with the idea of a daily moment of united prayer and silence when he was severely wounded and caught behind enemy lines during fighting in the mountains around Jerusalem in 1917.

During World War II, he persuaded Churchill and George VI to back his Silent Minute, which commenced on Remembrance Sunday, 10 November, 1940, signalled by the chiming of Big Ben at nine o'clock each evening.

The minute was observed on land, sea and air, on the battlefields, in air raid shelters, hospitals and prison camps. The practice continued on the BBC Home Service until the mid-fifties.

When asked to elaborate on his idea, Tudor Pole said: 'There is no power on Earth that can withstand the united co-operation on spiritual levels of men and women of goodwill everywhere. It is for this reason that the continued and widespread observance of the Silent Minute is of such vital importance in the interest of human welfare.'

What was the effect of this group meditation? At the end of hostilities in Europe, a British intelligence officer was interrogating a high-ranking German officer. He asked him why he thought Germany lost the war. The reply was: 'During the war, you had a secret weapon for which we could find no counter measure, which we did not understand, but it was very powerful. It was associated with the striking of Big Ben each evening. I believe you called it the Silent Minute.'

In these troubling times, many people are re-adopting the practice with a view to furthering a sense of calm. May I commend it to my fellow readers."

From 21 August 2017 the great bell, Big Ben, in the Elizabeth Tower has been silenced. It is for the best of reasons so that it can be restored to its former glory. The Construction Video Channel has produced an 11 minute video of how this important work is progressing.
Here is how to find it:
Construction Video Channel | The B1M or https://youtu.be/UCwZ1iI3pdw

The Editorial Team

'BE YE SEPARATE' *continued*

achieved through temptation, lies and deceit perpetrated by unscrupulous leaders in high places. However, we may well be seeing the guiding hand of God and the fulfilment of His prophetic word, as given in *Isaiah*, taking place before our eyes. For the prophet, in the 26th chapter, records the Lord's instruction to Israel: "*Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers and shut thy doors about thee, hide thyself, as it were, for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast*" (verse 20). I suggest that our exit from the EU, at the end of January, could well be seen to mark that period of entering into our own chambers, returning to the company of our kith and kin in our Commonwealth lands, whom we should never have deserted. The doors will be finally shut at the end of this year when the negotiation process with the EU comes to an end.

Therefore, we are now in a period of waiting, I believe; waiting 'for a little moment,' a brief period of time; waiting for the Spirit of God to be poured out on our nation and people who finally recognise their own impotence, as financial and political gods fail us in these days of uncertainty and crises. Waiting for the return of the Lord to bring righteous rule in His Kingdom and an end to the powers of evil, which have wrought such havoc on this earth for so many years and ages. So come quickly, Lord Jesus.

ALFRED BROWN

KINGDOM TRUTH FROM SCRIPTURE

These Scriptures are a powerful witness to what is happening in the world and as instruction and guidance for us in our walk with God.

Truth is under attack and being killed

"Justice is turned back and righteousness stands afar off; for truth is fallen in the street and equity cannot enter. So truth fails and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey…" Isaiah 59:14-15.

"…This is a nation that does not obey the voice of the Lord their God nor receive correction. Truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth" Jeremiah 7:28.

Deception is pervasive and goes together with Theft

"You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another" Leviticus 19:11.

"Everyone will deceive his neighbour and will not speak the truth; they have taught their tongue to speak lies; they weary themselves to commit iniquity" Jeremiah 9:5.

Satan will deceive the Nations no more

"Then I saw an angel coming down from Heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan and bound him for a thousand years and he cast him into the bottomless pit and shut him up and set a seal on him, ***so that he should deceive the nations no more…"*** *Revelation* 20:1-3.

. . . But now the whole World is being deceived

"And war broke out in Heaven… that serpent of old, called the devil and ***Satan who deceives the whole world…"*** *Revelation* 12:7.

*"****Whose minds the god of this age has blinded****, who do not believe, lest the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them"* II *Corinthians* 4:4.

Many will turn away from the Truth and prefer false Teachers

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ***and they will turn their ears away from the truth and be turned aside to fables****"* II *Timothy* 4:3-4.

We are involved in a world war of Worldviews

"Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God" James 4:4.

"For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? ***For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ****" Galatians* 1:10.

The Deceitfulness of the Human Heart

"The heart is deceitful above all

things and desperately wicked; *who can know it?" Jeremiah* 17:9.
"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies" *Matthew* 15:19.

God hates Lies; He will punish false witnesses and He will destroy those who promote falsehood
"Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight" Proverbs 12:22.
"A false witness will not go unpunished and he who speaks lies shall perish" Proverbs 19:9.
"Let the lying lips be put to silence…" Psalm 31:18.
"You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man" Psalm 5:6.
"He who works deceit shall not dwell within my house; he who tells lies shall not continue in my presence" Psalm 101:7.
"Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips and from a deceitful tongue" Psalm 120:2.
"Woe to the bloody city! It is all full of lies and robbery. *Its victim never departs" Nahum* 3:1.

Evolutionists reject the Truth of God to embrace the Lie of Satan
"Who exchanged the truth of God for the lie *and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever" Romans* 1:25.
"But to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness – indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish…" Romans 2:8-9.

Men who suppress the Truth incur the Wrath of God
"For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness" Romans 1:18.
"The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs and ***lying wonders and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*** *And for this reason God will send them* ***strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth*** *but had pleasure in unrighteousness"* II *Thessalonians* 2:9-12.
"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters and ***all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the Second Death"*** *Revelation* 21:8.

Wisdom and Knowledge lead to understanding
"A scoffer seeks wisdom and does not find it, but knowledge is easy to him who understands" Proverbs 14:6.
"The truthful lip shall be established forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment" Proverbs 12:19.
"Remove falsehood and lies far from me…" Proverbs 30:8.

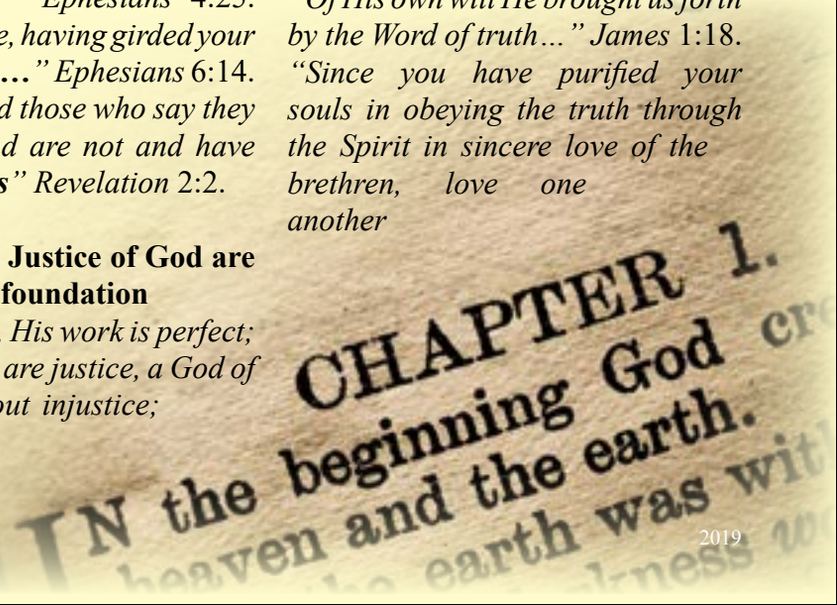
Maintain Truth and Justice in your conversation and love your neighbour by speaking Truth
"These are the things you shall do: ***Speak each man the truth to his neighbour; give judgment in your gates for truth, justice and peace"*** *Zechariah* 8:16.
"Therefore, putting away lying, 'Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbour,' for we are members of one another" Ephesians 4:25.
"Stand therefore, having girded your waist with ***truth…"*** *Ephesians* 6:14.
"You have tested those who say they are apostles and are not and have found them ***liars"*** *Revelation* 2:2.

The Truth and Justice of God are the solid Rock foundation
"He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He" Deuteronomy 32:4.
"*And now****, O Lord God, You are God and Your Words are true…"*** II *Samuel* 7:28.
"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, ***rightly dividing the Word of Truth"*** II *Timothy* 2:15.
"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, ***but to Your Name give glory, because of Your mercy, because of Your truth"*** *Psalm* 115:1.
"Who made Heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; ***Who keeps truth forever"*** *Psalm* 146:6.

Jesus is Truth
"*Jesus said…* ***'I am the way, the truth and the life.*** *No one comes to the Father except through Me'" John* 14:6.
"…Jesus answered, ***'…For this cause I was born and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice'"*** *John* 18:37.

Trust God and His Word
"…Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar…" Romans 3:4.
"…God, who cannot lie…" Titus 1:2.
"…it is impossible for God to lie…" Hebrews 6:18.

Truth leads to Godly Living
"Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the Faith of God's elect and ***the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness"*** *Titus* 1:1.
"Of His own will He brought us forth by the Word of truth…" James 1:18.
"Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another



fervently with a pure heart" I *Peter* 1:22.
"Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in ***Your truth****…" Psalm* 86:11

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth
*"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father****, the Spirit of Truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me****" John* 15:26.
"However, when He, ***the Spirit of truth****, has come,* ***He will guide you into all truth...****" John* 16:13.

Truth is Precious and will preserve you
*"****Buy the truth*** *and do not sell it…" Proverbs* 23:23.
"Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O Lord; let Your lovingkindness and ***Your truth continually preserve me****" Psalm* 40:11.
"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" Romans 12:2.

The Carnal Mind is Hostile to God and His Word
"For to be carnally minded is death, but ***to be spiritually minded is life and peace****. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the Law of God, nor indeed can be" Romans* 8:6-7.
"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world and not according to Christ" Colossians 2:8.
*"The simple believes every word****, but the prudent considers well his steps****" Proverbs* 14:15.

The Battle for Truth
"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ***For the weapons of our warfare*** *are not carnal but* ***mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ****"* II *Corinthians* 10:3-5.
"...put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts and be renewed in the spirit of your mind" Ephesians 4:22-23.
"Then Jesus… 'If you ***abide in My Word****, you are My disciples indeed.* ***And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free****'" John* 8:31-32.

The Scripture provides us with the Light to discover Truth
"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" Psalm 119:105.
"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" II *Timothy* 3:16-17.

"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things" *Philippians* 4:8.

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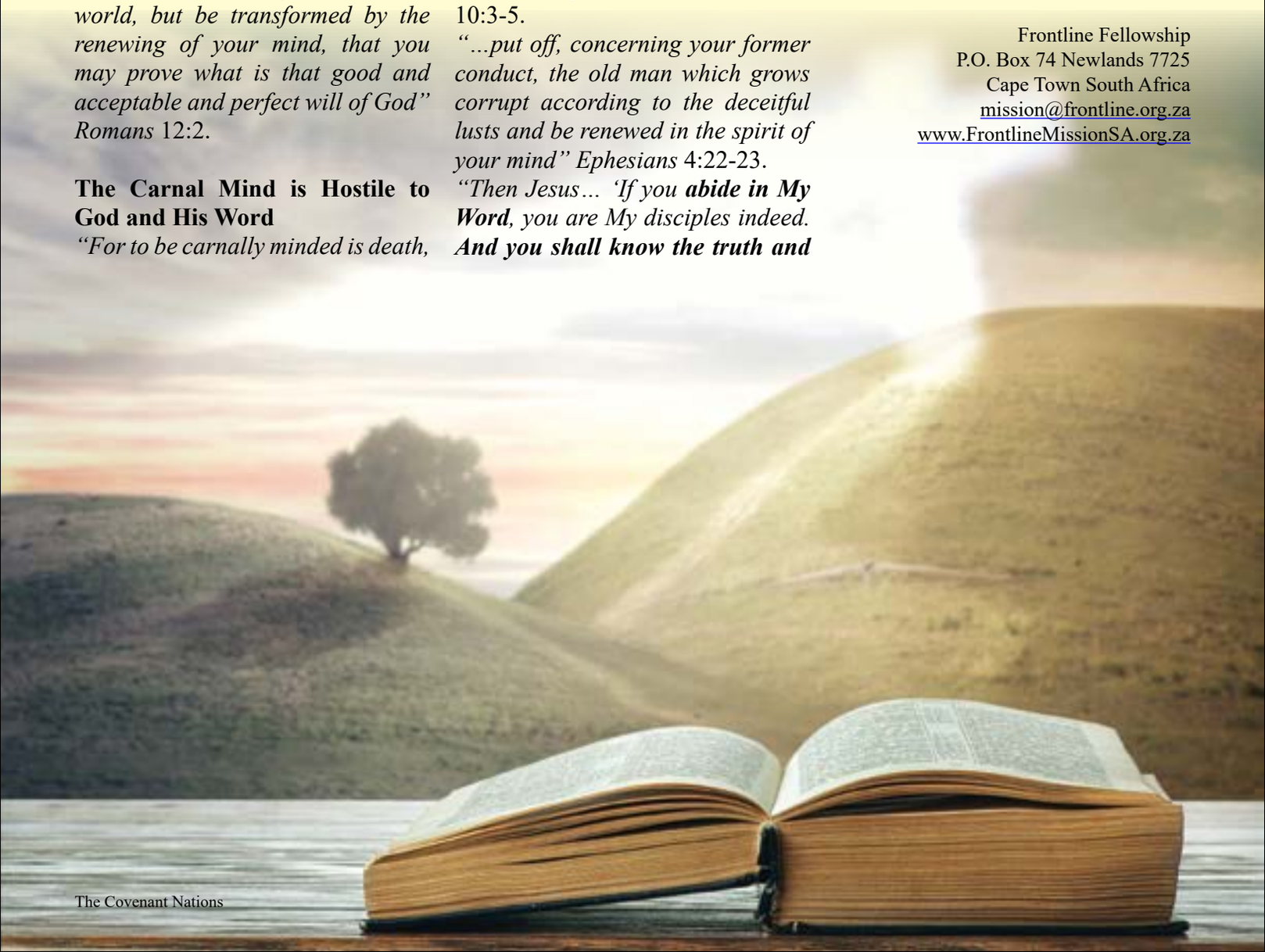


THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD FOR THE NATION

Spiritual warfare is a kind of warfare in which men and women are involved on equal terms. It is a war in which we are not called upon to face soldiers armed with weapons of war but a war against principalities and powers, against spiritual wickedness in high places as St Paul described in *Ephesians*, chapter 6, verses 11 to 18. It is a war which has been going on all through history with good and evil, or God and Satan, facing each other with the human race divided between them. Of the final outcome there can be no doubt at all but if we are to play an honourable part in the conflict we need to be well equipped with the full armour of God. Much of this conflict has to be waged on a personal level and that is clearly how he envisaged it. Each individual Christian needs to be thus equipped to fight the good fight and win the crown of victory which is promised to those who prevail to the end. There is no distinction between the sexes in this war.

St Paul describes the whole armour of God by the Greek word *panopleia* or 'panoply.' In biblical times the panoply of a soldier consisted of seven items and seven is the number of spiritual perfection. It consisted of three items of clothing: a girdle, a breastplate and shoes; two items of defence: a helmet and a shield; and two weapons of attack: a spear held in the hand and a sword in its scabbard attached to his girdle. St Paul lists only six pieces of equipment, omitting the spear but St Paul was not compiling a catalogue of what a soldier needed, he was simply using the idea as a metaphor to drive home his point that the Christian is all the time engaged in a spiritual war and that he cannot fight effectively if he is not fully equipped with the heavenly panoply. This armour is issued by God Himself. We must accept what God provides and take it to ourselves to be well protected against the attacks of the enemy so that having the means in our hands we can go forth against him and drive him back.

The Bible has an essential message to the nation, a message which is ignored these days. If St Paul then was offering urgent advice to Christians as individuals then we can also consider the application of his words to the whole people of God as a nation. This in no way belittles the importance, in fact the vital necessity, of personal salvation and personal commitment to Christ and His Kingdom. The nature of God is such that not even a sparrow can fall to the ground without His knowledge. At the same time we must take into account that the Bible, and therefore God Himself whose Word it is, is equally concerned with the nation as though it is something more than the sum total of the individuals who comprise it. It is all a question of keeping the right balance between the personal and national aspects of our belief, for the two are closely interwoven.

It is time now to consider the individual items of our panoply. We begin with the **girdle of truth**. St Paul here uses a Greek word *alatheia* for truth which signifies truth as opposed to falsehood and it is a word that is used many times in St John's Gospel applied to God Himself. The girdle of truth then implies a close relationship with God who is truth and apart from Whom there is no truth. Without this truth everything else is valueless. With it we can have absolute and complete confidence in Him and His promises. The truth makes us free from fear, free from dependence on outward circumstances, free to live life fully and joyfully.

Looking back over the history of the people of God we must surely be aware that it is precisely at those times when the nation as a whole has been held by that truth that it has been at its greatest. Two examples will suffice. When Solomon was their king it could be said that the girdle of truth was firmly in position. Belief in the truth of God was acknowledged throughout the nation and found its supreme expression in the construction of the Temple to the glory of God. When the Temple was dedicated king and people were united in the worship of God and a commitment to walk in His ways.

There was a similar flowering of the national spirit in the sixteenth century at the time of the Reformation. Because of the translation of the Scriptures into the people's native tongue and their availability to all, the truth of God was stripped of centuries of misrepresentation and distortion and stood once more in all its splendour and simplicity.

Our next requirement is the **breastplate of righteousness**. If the soldier's breastplate is to provide effective protection then it must be strong and well made with no loose rivets or gaps where the point of a sword may find an entrance. Righteousness is a word that occurs many times in the Scriptures but it can have a variety of meanings. In the Old Testament it is most frequently spoken of as one of the attributes of God Himself. Absolute righteousness, like absolute truth, is the very essence of God and apart from Him has no existence. "*Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people*" (*Proverbs* 14:34).

Yet Jesus made it clear that keeping the law and upholding moral standards is not enough. The parable of the Pharisee and the publican illustrates this – see *Luke* 18:10-14. In *Psalm* 24 the question is posed "*Who shall stand in His holy place*?" and answered "*He that hath clean hands and a pure heart, ... he shall receive a blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation*." The only one who could fulfill all these conditions is Jesus Christ and He fulfilled them on our behalf. The breastplate of righteousness is a gift from God given to those who approach Him in repentance and humility through Jesus Christ.

What is true of the individual Christian is true of the whole people of God. That gift of rightness with God, which is our vital protection, is available to the nation but first, like the publican, we must confess our sin and ask to be forgiven. We have allowed adultery, violence, robbery, blasphemy, covetousness, sabbath-breaking and many things contrary to God's Will to become part of our national life and until these are removed we are without the protection of the breastplate of God's righteousness. There are three things we can do: firstly, make sure we ourselves are protected; secondly, pray continually for a change of heart in this nation; and thirdly, seize every opportunity to urge the leaders in both Church and State to take their stand openly on the side of God and His righteousness. To encourage us we have the sure promise of God: "*If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal **their land***" (II *Chronicles* 7:14).

The soldier now needs shoes and St Paul says he must wear the shoes of the **preparation of the gospel of peace**. There are many instances in the Bible where peace and righteousness are closely linked. In *Psalm* 85, verse 10, they are described as having kissed each other and that implies a very close relationship. Peace is a state of mind or quality of life we all long for but which most people find elusive. Throughout history nations have sought to maintain peace by means of pacts and alliances and agreements but none have proved effective for very long. None of these plans succeeded because God has had no part in any of these peace-making attempts. God's own Kingdom of peace will come, but it will come in His way and at a time of His choosing. It is not a kingdom that mankind can bring into being but it is a kingdom for which we can be ready if we are in a right relationship with God.

Soldiers do a great deal of marching and need to have well made and well fitted shoes. If we have our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace we are then ready to go forward and proclaim the message. The truth of the Scriptures need to be as much a part of our mental and spiritual equipment as a comfortable pair of boots is essential for a soldier on the march.

If this is true on a personal level it is also true nationally. The Israel nation was formed by God as His servant people to become the nucleus of His Kingdom. To them and them alone was the law given and they were to demonstrate to other nations the perfection and the desirability of that law as a basis for national life. They were also to be God's witnesses and messengers preparing the way of the Lord, not establishing the kingdom but making ready for its coming. That was why when Israel was divided into two separate kingdoms God said to Shemaiah the prophet "*This thing is from me*" (I *Kings* 12:24). The people of Judah and Benjamin were prepared to go to war to keep the nation united but warned by the prophet that it would be against the will of God they gave up their warlike plans. Events proved the truth of Shemaiah's words. In completely different ways the two houses of Israel and Judah were used by God.

In summary: both houses were taken into captivity, first Israel then Judah. The remnant (*Ezra* 2:64) of those of the house of Judah who returned from Babylon were in the Promised Land when the Messiah came to them. They rejected Him as a nation but the Gospel was taken around the world by His disciples. The house of Israel never returned and their descendants spread out westwards to their appointed place first and then to all the corners of the earth. It was among these children of the house of Israel that the Gospel of the kingdom first found a receptive audience and it was these same children of Israel who carried the message to every corner of the world.

These faithful men and women who carried the message of Jesus Christ to the far places of the earth were and are protected by the **shield of faith**. In all their difficulties and dangers they have held firmly to faith in the rightness of their calling, faith in the power of God to sustain them and faith in the ultimate triumph

of Christ over all His foes. In that faith they had the courage to face any kind of opposition. We too need that kind of faith in the purpose of God and in His power and ability to see it to its conclusion. However it is precisely faith in the authority of the Scriptures that has been so thoroughly and determinedly undermined in recent times. We have not followed the instructions to bring up our children to know the Lord (*Psalm* 78:5-7) and we are reaping the result today. As a nation we have lost our way and no longer have any faith in our destiny or in the God who planned that destiny. Instead we have allowed other beliefs and other faiths to influence what is taught in the churches.

A case in point is the question of salvation which brings in the next item with which to be clothed: the **helmet of salvation**. The Bible states quite clearly and unequivocally that the way of salvation lies through Jesus Christ and Him alone. Yet over time more and more emphasis was placed on the authority of the church and the proper observation of its many rituals and less and less on personal faith in the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ. Nowadays the changes brought about through multiculturalism and interfaith activities also downplay this plain teaching of Scripture: salvation is to be found only through Jesus Christ and we ignore this at our peril.

If personal salvation is guaranteed through Jesus Christ, national salvation is guaranteed by the promise of God to Abraham, confirmed to Isaac and Jacob and restated to David, when it included the promise of the continuation of the throne until He comes to claim it whose right it has been from the beginning. This promise is not dependent on the number of individuals saved in the nation – it is dependent on God Himself as He said in *Genesis* 22:16, "*By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD*."

These are the methods God has appointed for our protection, but we are also called to be ready to attack and the only weapon we have is the Word of God, the **sword of the Spirit**. Significantly the scabbard in which a soldier kept his sword was attached to his belt or girdle and our spiritual girdle is truth. The Word of God provides us with a weapon that will not fail us; but we need to know how to use it and we cannot do better than to follow our Lord's example. When He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness at the end of His forty days fasting, He countered each temptation with a quotation from Scripture (*Matthew* 4:1-11). Against the Word of God Satan had no weapon and retired baffled and defeated. We should always have a reasonable answer from the Scriptures ready for anyone who questions us.

Finally there is yet another weapon which is available to the Christian warrior and indeed to the Christian nation: the **power of prayer**. After taking us through the clothing and weapons which we need the next verse begins with "*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit*." It could almost be described as the seventh item of the whole armour of God. Prayer has a twofold purpose in that it serves to keep us in a right relationship with the Lord God and so is part of the protective armour but it can also be used to pray for help in different situations, "*The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much*" (*James* 5:16).

There was a time when this nation was known as "the people of a book and that book the Bible." And there was a time when the nation would approach God humbly in times of great peril and seek His face. Sadly, that is no longer true and calls for a National Day of Prayer have fallen on deaf ears, even in the coronavirus crisis. But however much the nation may fall away God has always left Himself with a faithful remnant. The time is now for that faithful remnant to put on the whole armour of God and "*stand in the gap*" for Him, praying in the power of the Holy Spirit for a great change and revival to come upon all the Israel nations.

PHILIPPA CLARK

Based on the lecture notes of
Carol Cream, author and lecturer

A GREAT PESTILENCE

This year, 2020, was going to be remembered particularly for our return to being an independent nation following our exit from the European Union. Celebrated with great joy and thanksgiving by the majority of people in the United Kingdom.

However, this time of celebration has been very much overshadowed by the Coronavirus pandemic, which has brought such great disruption to daily life for everyone and inevitable grief for those who have lost loved ones to this modern-day plague. Whatever the source and genesis of this virus we have to acknowledge that our twenty-first century lifestyle of open national borders and world-wide travel facilities enabled the spread of the virus to go unhindered. Will lessons be learned from this, one wonders?

Credit should be given that the situation was regarded as serious enough for a time of prayer to be observed throughout the land, on 22 March at 7.00pm, seeking God's help for this national health emergency.

At the time of writing I don't know if the *Book of Common Prayer* was anywhere referred to, but, contained therein is a most appropriate prayer for such an eventuality, which is worth quoting:
"O Almighty God, who in thy wrath didst send a plague upon thine own people in the wilderness, for their obstinate rebellion against Moses and Aaron; and also in the time of David, didst slay with the plague of Pestilence three score and ten thousand, and yet remembering thy mercy didst save the rest; Have pity on us miserable sinners, who now are visited with great sickness and mortality: that like as thou didst then accept of an atonement, and didst command the destroying Angel to cease from punishing so it may now please thee to withdraw from us this plague and grievous sickness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."

The first plague referred to in that prayer is recorded in the book of *Numbers*, in chapter 11. It was the occasion when the people of Israel objected to the lack of meat in their diet and which they remembered having in abundance when they lived in Egypt. The fact that God had sustained them in health and vigour with His provision of manna in the wilderness clearly did not satisfy their longing for the fleshpots of former years.

At this point Moses was finding his leadership role rather a burden. Control of the Israelites and dealing with all their complaints proved to be more than one man could cope with. So, under God's direction a group of seventy elders were chosen and given authority to assist Moses with his administration of the nation. Moses then lays the complaint of lack of meat before the Lord, on behalf of the people. God then agrees to provide them with meat, enough for a whole month. He provides quails in great abundance and on these the people gorge themselves. However, this is quickly followed by a plague which kills a large number of them. Details of this incident are singularly brief in this particular account but greater detail is revealed by the Psalmist, in *Psalm* 78. In this we are told that the Israelites were quite ungrateful and unrepentant, in spite of the Lord's great provision in answer

to their complaint (verse 32). They acknowledged that He had made this provision, but it did not change their attitude towards Him as the Lord could clearly see (verses 36, 37). He could see through the lip-service the people indulged in, with their insincerity and lack of true faith being, to Him, patently obvious. Deceit and insincerity are severely dealt with by the Lord, as this incident clearly shows. Indeed, it was for this reason that the generation of Israel people, who had been miraculously delivered from their captive life in Egypt, did not live to enjoy the blessing of independent nationhood which their descendants later gained in the Promised Land.

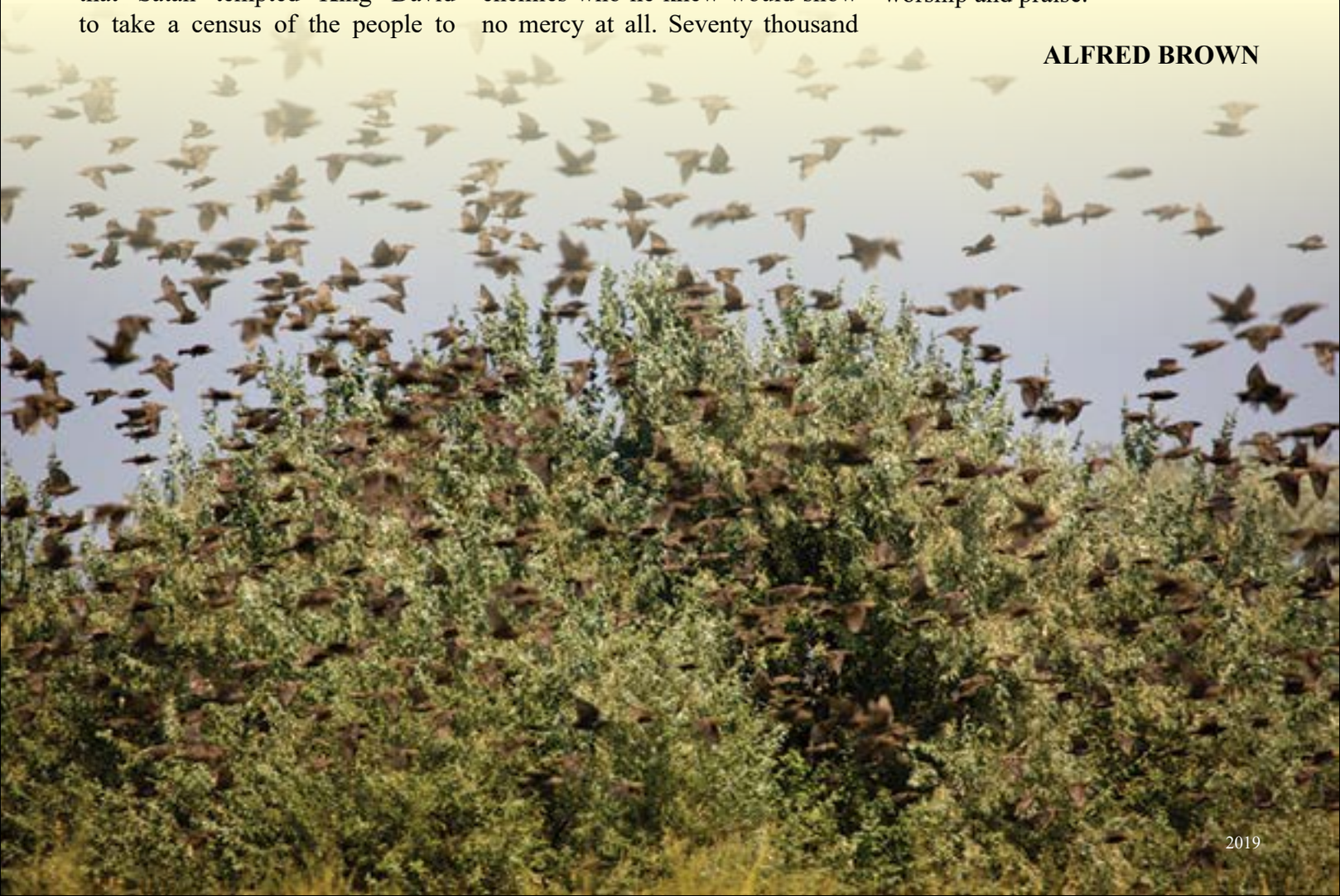
The second plague referred to in the prayer was that incurred by King David for exceeding the authority invested in him by the Lord. This incident is also recorded in two places in Scripture – in II *Samuel* chapter 24 and again in I *Chronicles* chapter 21. In the latter we read that Satan tempted King David to take a census of the people to ascertain the numerical strength of his army. The Commander-in-chief, Joab, objected to the king doing this, saying, in effect, that it was not necessary. But the king would not listen and went ahead with the census. However, David later realised that he had committed a sin against God and repented his action.

"Quails from the sea"
Numbers 11:31

Yet he still had to face judgment for his fall from grace and was given a choice of accepting one of three possible judgments. The first two involved him being at the mercy of his enemies but the third one placed him at God's mercy. This was the plague or pestilence to be imposed by the Lord and David chose this option. For, although the punishment was severe, he preferred to be in God's hands rather than those of his enemies who he knew would show no mercy at all. Seventy thousand died in the plague before it was brought to an end, as is stated in the prayer.

It is significant in the prayer that we acknowledge our sinfulness before God, as King David did, before requesting God's help by the withdrawing of this plague from us. It is remarkable that in this *Book of Common Prayer* every eventuality seems to be covered in the life of the kingdom. There have been numerous afflictions which have beset us over the years, such as wars, floods, droughts and plagues. Yet we blindly go on 'doing our own thing,' so frequently in contravention of the perfect laws of God. By so doing we needlessly make life very hard for ourselves. Matters seem to have been exacerbated by the ill-advised abandonment of the Prayer Book, which contains so much of spiritual value in such times as these in the life of this nation. It is as though God provided it as a supplement to His inspired Word to guide us in our worship and praise.

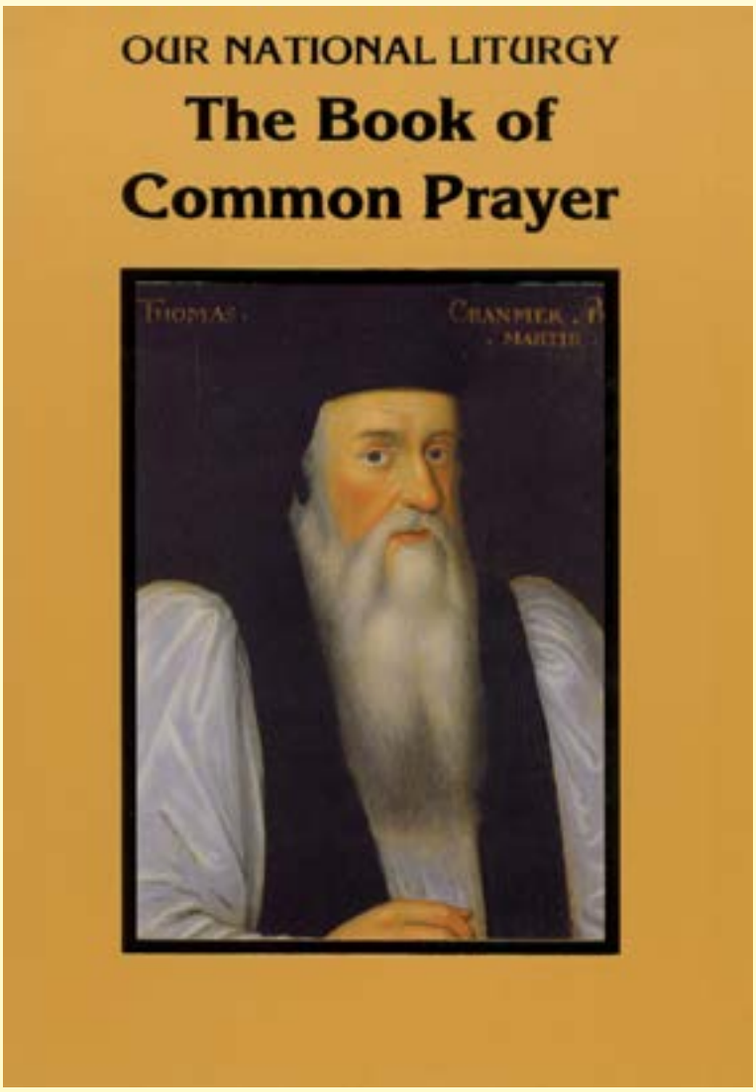
ALFRED BROWN



BRITAIN'S BLESSINGS

In my article in *The Covenant Nations*, Volume 5 Number 1 2020 'Leadership in the Covenant Nations' I constantly reflect and identify with the editor's previous comments[1] "Britain has been in a state of national unfaithfulness to its lawful husband – 'The Queen–in–Parliament under God.' Treason by instalments…" The Editorial cited truthfully tells everything and has encouraged me to remember the blessings and obedience to Almighty God through the truth of the Coronation Service and the *Book of Common Prayer* 1662 – especially the Holy Communion Service – the prayer for the "whole state of Christ's Church militant here in earth."[2]

"Almighty and ever-living God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers and supplications, and to give thanks, for all men: We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant, that all they that do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity, and godly love. We beseech thee also to save and defend all Christian Kings, Princes, and Governors; and specially thy servant Elizabeth our Queen; that under her we may be godly and quietly governed: And grant unto her whole Council, and to all that are put in authority under her, that they may truly and indifferently minister justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue."



Another parallel or 'type/shadow' situation of disobedience and unfaithfulness to Almighty God and deceit against the Crown is seen comparing the events of two periods 1932-1939 and 1958-1993 – and indeed to this day.

The comparison begins with the work of John F. Kennedy and his book *Why England Slept*.[3] In his book, which he completed whilst a student at Harvard University U.S.A. in 1940, Kennedy did a brilliant analysis of the apathy, complacency, ignorance, pacifism and appeasement in England 1932-1940. Kennedy published his work in 1940 and had no idea then of what would happen. After the bombing of Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941 he knew all his concerns about apathy, complacency and appeasement were true and joined the U.S. Navy.

In his book, Kennedy noted that the responsibility for pacifism rested not on one man but the whole Parliament. The people of England were accepting and, in a sense, not interested. The threat of another war was not in focus until 1938, the year that Hitler was *Time Magazine* 'Man of the Year'! Kennedy realized there were problems in the efficacy of the League of Nations. When in 1932 the League required Japan to leave Manchuria, Japan left the League. Further to my comments on unfaithfulness and complacency, England did nothing in 1934. England started to realize the League was useless.

Kennedy noted that on 9 March, 1935, the German Air Force came into being, producing over 1,000 planes per month. Also,

factories which were supposed to be producing locomotives and rolling-stock were also producing army tanks.[4] In 1936 Kennedy noted the result of a 'peace ballots'[5] which proved Britain was aware but 'asleep.'

Almost 5 months after WWII began and on 28 May 1940, Prime Minister Winston Churchill addressed the Outer Cabinet. The following quotes are from the film 'Churchill'[6] which I believe are sufficiently accurate renditions of this critical comparison. He mentioned "peace talks" and raised the question that if Parliament agreed with "peace talks" would Britain become a slave state under Hitler? Was it acceptable to have "the swastika flying over Buckingham Palace… and over these very buildings"? Churchill continued: "… we shall prove ourselves once more to be able to defend our Island Home." He spoke of: "riding out the menace of tyranny." He said: "it was the will of Parliament and the Nation"! He acknowledged that Britain would "never surrender" and concluded the speech with "… and if this Island were subjugated or starving our Empire beyond the seas… would carry on the struggle until in God's good time the New world with all its power and might would step forth to the rescue and liberation of the Old…" True care, compassion, obedience and faithfulness to Almighty God – but what happened in the late 1950s through to 1972, or 1993 to the present? The comparison is frightening – a return to the problems of 1932 – 1939.

Almighty God is faithful to His Covenant Nations. In San Francisco in April, 1945 the U.S. President addressed the Delegates concerning the establishment of the United Nations Organisation[7]: "The Charter of the United Nations which you are now signing is a social structure on which we can build for a better world…"

> "For we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus"
> *Ephesians* 2:10

Stephen Ambrose, an historian continued and commented: "There was great hope in the world that this would happen and that this (WWII) was the last war, that the nations would be able to co-operate in peace as they had in war… and to see to it that there would be no more aggression in the world… a better world was going to emerge, and one part of this was **going to be a non-colonial world.**" When Stephen Ambrose said this did he realize the United Nations would be just like the failed League of Nations? We have endured over 25 wars since. Focusing on the unfaithfulness to the Crown (1973, 1993) perhaps in the early 1950s – up to 1958 led to the evil and deception which is being corrected by 'Brexit' now.

I give thanks, praise, honour, trust and obedience to Almighty God: I *Samuel* 2:30 "…*those who honour me will I honour*." As Covenant Nations we have spiritual privileges from Almighty God with objectives to fulfil His purposes: *Ephesians* 2:10 "*For we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do*." We as Covenant Nations are the people of His promise from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob-Israel (*Romans* 11:25-27).

As I conclude I have noted the comparisons 1932-1939 and the deceptions, unfaithfulness and disobedience which caused the Monarchy to be subject to foreign authority beginning in 1958 and subsequently 1972 and 1993. *Isaiah* 29:15 "*Woe to those who go to great depths to hide their plans from the Lord…*" Also quoted by Jesus in *Mark* 7:6-7.

We pray as a result of 'Brexit' Britain will return to the truth, faithfulness and righteousness of the past. I remember in Holy Scripture how the scribes were ministers of the law of the Lord. They failed: *Jeremiah* 8:8 "*How can you say: 'We are wise, for we have the law of the Lord, when actually the lying pen of the scribes has handled it falsely'*." I liken the deceitful, unfaithful Ministers of Parliament to the scribes as the EEC and EU were established.

Brexit will begin a new golden age for Britain and for their relationships with faithful Commonwealth Covenant Nations. Blessings.

DR GRAHAM WHELAN
Minister Emeritus
Australian Christian Churches

1. *Covenant Nations* Vol 4, No 12, 2019
2. *Book of Common Prayer* p 244-245
3. *While Australia Sleeps*, Rev Dr Graham Whelan OAM p 87-110
4. Ibid
5. Ibid p 94-95
6. Universal Studios 'Churchill' Focus Features 2017
7. Freemantle Media International 'The World at War' 25. Recounting 1945 and after.

COVENANT PUBLISHING NEWS

The Kingdom of God on Earth

Covenant Publishing is pleased to announce a new edition of *The Kingdom of God on Earth* by Reverend Alban Heath. This Third Revised Edition is enlarged by a new Appendix with *The Continuing Kingdom of God upon Earth* which has been available as a free booklet for some years from the British-Israel-World Federation. In his 'Foreword' to the First Edition in 1933 Rev Heath explained that he was writing it for the general reader. He also hoped that 'this little book prompts others more skilled to pursue the investigations suggested.'

The 'Preface to The Third Edition' explains clearly in the Publisher's words the reason for producing this new edition:

In the eighty-six years since the first edition of this important and fascinating study there have been tremendous challenges for the British people such as the Second World War and the huge diversion from the national destiny in their embroilment with the great European Project. At the same time the Church of England and the non-conformist denominations have lost their direction and indeed the very belief in many fundamental doctrines of *the* Faith.

Teachers of the Protestant Faith have failed to understand the prophetic story of the People of the Book as it has unfolded over the centuries, this being the Gospel of the Kingdom, concentrating purely on a spiritual interpretation of the New Covenant which was made with both houses of the ancient Kingdom of Israel and included in the memorable references of *Jeremiah* 31:31 and *Hebrews* 8:8.

This book is very enjoyable to read first and then to study. It would be highly suitable for a Church book group to use as a basis for study and learning.

British-Israel: How I Came to Believe It

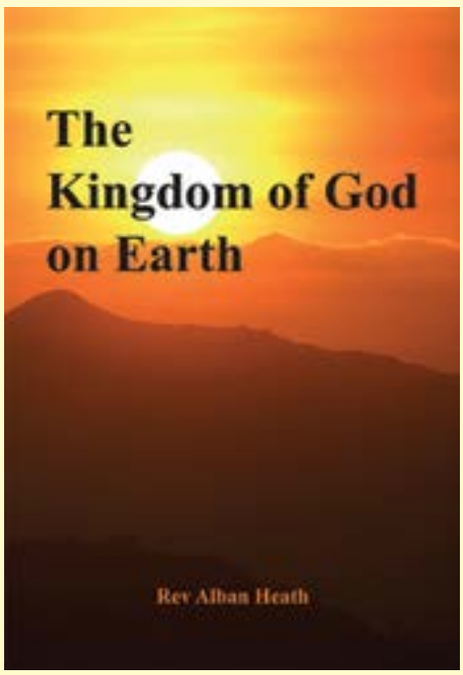
This book, *British-Israel: How I came to believe it*, is the latest one from the catalogue of Covenant Publishing to become available on Kindle. The author has written it as a dialogue between himself and a friend in which they explore every aspect of the Israel message. They were first published in the year 1875 under the title of The Anglo-Israel Post Bag, and in the form of "Letters to a Friend." Points are raised, challenged and answered and the reader is drawn into this conversation as he reads on through the chapters. It is a lively and enjoyable way of investigating this important topic.

The Right Reverend Titcomb was the first Bishop of Rangoon, Burma. He was consecrated by the late Archbishop Tait in 1877. Prior to this he had been Vicar of St. Stephen's, South Lambeth. After five years in Burma he was obliged to retire and return to England owing to ill-health. For a period he was President of the Metropolitan Anglo-Israel Association. He was a frequent contributor to *The Banner of Israel*.

The Publisher's Preface to the Third Edition (2016) stated the following:

While it is clear that the destructive events in the future, as they affected the then British Empire, could not have been foreseen at the time of the former editions of this work, the confirmation of God's enduring covenants with His People at this time provides us with the confidence and hope as to who holds the future in the approaching climax.

As with all new editions of works which were written many years ago the above considerations must be held in the mind of the reader. This book comes highly recommended by all those who have read it and the book itself can later be purchased from the CPC bookshop.



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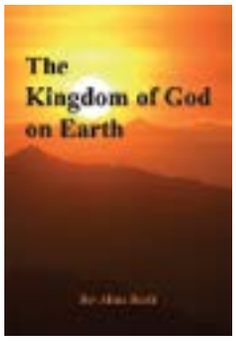

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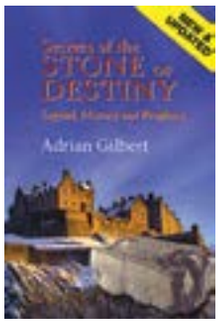

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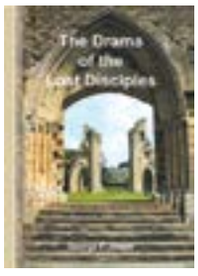

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"*When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel*"

Deuteronomy 32:8

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